(b) the month in which they were received by Government ;
(c) the months in which they were published with reviews ; and

(ii) to state whether any, and if so, what steps have been taken to place them before the public at an earlier date ?

A—(i) & (ii).—The statement is nil.

Administration reports under the hon. the Law Member.

* 1866 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased—

(i) to place before the Council a statement showing—
(a) the administration reports of the several departments under his control for the years 1927–28 and 1928–29 ;
(b) the month in which they were received by Government ;
(c) the months in which they were published with reviews ; and

(ii) to state whether any, and if so, what steps have been taken to place them before the public at an earlier date ?

A.—(i) (a) to (c) A statement [a] is appended. Reports for 1928–29 are due only after the close of March 1929.

(ii) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 1841.

Forests

Loss sustained in the Mount Stuart concern.

* 1867 *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. Swami : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what the loss sustained in exploitation operations in the Mount Stuart reserve is ;

(b) why such loss was sustained ; and

(c) which officers, if any, were responsible for it ?

A.—(a) The loss incurred in the concern from the date of its commercialization is Rs. 1,71,548, of which the loss sustained during 1926–27 is Rs. 1,55,178-3-1 and that during 1927–28 is Rs. 16,369-9-2.

(b) As regards the loss sustained during 1926–27, the attention of the hon. Member is drawn to paragraphs 4—7 of the audit report of the concern which has been placed on the Council table with G.O. Press No. 1172, Development, dated 16th July 1928. The audit report of the concern for 1927–28 is still under the consideration of Government. The Auditor's report indicates that the sawn timber trading is chiefly responsible for the loss in this case.

(c) In the circumstances given in answer to clause (b) no particular officer or officers connected with the concern can be held responsible for the loss.

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[a] Printed as Appendix IX on pages 823-824 infra.

[25th March 1929

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" May I know the date of its commercialization ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"1st April 1925."

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" May I know when the Government were informed that there was likely to be loss to the extent of Rs. 1,55,000 in the year 1926-27 ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" The Government had no information."

Civil Justice

Action proposed to be taken on Mr. Justice Waller's judgment in Mr. Collett's appeal.

* 1867-A Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao : With reference to the strictures passed by Mr. Justice Waller in his judgment in Mr. Collett's appeal against certain officers of the City Police, the Chief Presidency Magistrate and the trying Magistrate, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state what action the Government propose to take thereon ? "

A.—The Government propose to obtain a copy of the judgment and relevant records and, if any *prima facie* case appears, will call on the officials concerned for their explanations and will then take such action as may be necessary.

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether, since this answer was given, he has received a copy of the judgment ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" No, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know whether the hon. Member read the reference in the papers ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Yes ; I read the reference in the Press."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I ask whether his attention was drawn to these passages in the judgment :—' We have to try not merely the appellant but also several responsible officers of the City Police, the Chief Presidency Magistrate and the trial Magistrate himself.' ' The prosecution has been most incompetently conducted. The object was intimidation.' ' If a witness put forward by the Crown as a witness of truth said something inconvenient, either it was ignored or brushed aside as insignificant or the witness was denounced as having been got at by the defence.' ' His deposition is only to be read to be discredited.' ' The Magistrate seems to think that he has an inherent and unlimited discretion to call any witness, at any time for any purpose.' "

The hon. the President :—" The question is disallowed."

11-15 a.m. Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" With regard to the first sentence of the answer, may I know whether the Government have taken any steps already to obtain a copy of the judgment and, if not, when they propose to take steps ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" I have already approved of the draft of a letter to the Crown Prosecutor asking him to send a copy of the judgment and the relevant records."